ORIGIN/ACTION

NEA-5

RM/R	REP	AF
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
	5	
NEA	CU	INR
		5
E	P	IO
	1	
L	FBO	AID
	E/PM	
	1	
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR
		5
ARMY	CIA	NAVY
5	10	3
OSD	USIA	NSA
21		3
		NSC
		6

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

617

DEF 7 FR
POL 7 FR-ISR

FOR RM USE ONLY

A-1680
NO.

CONFIDENTIAL
HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : Department

INFO: Tel Aviv

DISTRIBUTION

FROM : American Embassy, Paris

DATE: Jan. 31, 1965

SUBJECT : French National Defense Institute Group Visits Israel

REF : Tel Aviv's A-509 and previous; Embtel 3632 of December 18, 1964

NEA

RM/R file
2-10-65

PASS DOD

There is little to add to what has already been reported in the reference communications.

The French press gave considerable publicity to the sudden change in plans which kept several ranking French officials and military men at the last minute from going through with the trip. Inevitably, this engendered speculation of sudden tensions between France and Israel giving rise to this "gesture of French displeasure."

Although the sudden tensions were figments of commentator's imaginations the last minute withdrawal of ranking participants from the Defense Institute Alumni group does appear to have been at least to some extent the result of irritation in the Quai at the manner in which the Israelis were exploiting the visit for their own purposes. The tactic which calls for a maximum of public exposure to prominent Israeli visitors here and vice-versa Frenchmen going to Israel, has long been a low level irritant to the Quai which, while favoring the maintenance of the broad existing Franco-Israeli relationship, desires to minimize its outward manifestations somewhat to facilitate the growth of new links with the Arab world (Embair A-2463, April 2, 1964).

Downgraded at 12-year intervals, not automatically declassified

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 2/1/89
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFY ☐ RELEASABLE ☐

CONFIDENTIAL

FORM DS-323 4-62

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY ☑ In ☐ Out

Drafted by: POL:PSebastian:rrt:1-27-65

Contents and Classification Approved by: POL:JABovey, Jr.

Clearances:

What seems from here to be Israeli nervousness at the growing momentum of France's return to the Arab East does, of course, meet with a certain amount of understanding from GOF officials. However, the French have no intention of letting themselves be maneuvered into a posture of indifference or hostility towards the Arabs and in this case, apparently felt that (a) the group was too large and visible (b) the Israelis were overdoing it and needed a rebuff.

This at least is what our Quai (Levant) contacts have implied when the matter came up in passing. Needless to say, the episode like others before it is only of limited significance given the scope of Franco-Israeli bilateral relations.

For the Ambassador:

John A. Bovey, Jr.

John A. Bovey, Jr.
Counselor of Embassy